

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are all the claims in the application. Claim 1 remains rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Baker et al. (US Patent No. 3,472,331) in view of Iizuka et al. (US Patent No. 5,224,563). Claims 2-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Baker in view of Iizuka, and further in view of Nelson (US Patent No. 3,468,389).

Statement of Substance of Interview

First, as a preliminary matter, Applicant thanks the Examiner for discussing the prior art rejections with Applicant's representatives on November 17, 2008. No agreement was reached during the November 17 interview.

Prior Art Rejections

§103(a) Rejections (Baker/Iizuka) - Claim 1

Claim 1 is rejected based on the reasons set forth on pages 2-4 of the Office Action.

With respect to independent claim 1, Applicant submits that the applied references, either alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest at least, "a first knuckle which is connected to an upper suspension arm, a lower suspension arm, and a non-rotary side of the direct drive motor, and is locked in a steering direction," as recited in amended claim 1.

Applicant submits that the applied references, including Baker, do not disclose or suggest a first knuckle which is connected to an upper suspension arm and lower suspension arm.

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's allegation that Baker teaches that "a first knuckle (top of 22) is connected to a suspension member (14)", since it is clear from claim 1, col. 2, lines 42 to 44 and col. 3, lines 15 to 19 of Baker that reference numeral 14 denotes a suspension yoke

including an upper yoke arm (22) and lower yoke arm (24). According to Baker, spindle knuckle (80) is connected to the upper yoke arm (22) and lower yoke arm (24). The Examiner alleges that this spindle knuckle (80) corresponds to the second knuckle. However, as indicated above, Baker does not teach or suggest a first knuckle which is connected to an upper and lower suspension arm, as recited in amended claim 1. That is, Baker does not disclose or suggest a knuckle that is divided into two parts.

Further, in response to the Examiner's allegation that Applicant did not address the combination of Baker and Iizuka in the previous response, Applicant further submits that there is no description about "a knuckle" in Iizuka and maintain that the knuckle in Baker is not divided to two parts.

Therefore, at least based on the foregoing, Applicant submits that one of ordinary skill in the art would not have arrived at the claimed invention by combining Baker and Iizuka. In other words, neither Baker nor Iizuka, either alone or in combination, discloses or suggests at least, "a first knuckle which is connected to an upper suspension arm, a lower suspension arm, and a non-rotary side of the direct drive motor, and is locked in a steering direction," as mentioned above.

Yet further, Applicant maintains the previously submitted arguments with respect to claim 1 to the extent that they apply to the features set forth in the amended claim.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 is respectfully requested.

§103(a) Rejections (Baker / Iizuka / Nelson) - Claims 2-6

Applicant submits that dependent claims 2-6 are patentable at least by virtue of their indirect or direct dependencies from independent claim 1. Nelson does not make up for the deficiencies of Baker and Iizuka.

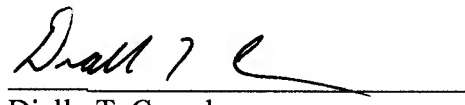
Further, Applicant maintains the previously submitted arguments with respect to claims 5 and 6.

Therefore, at least based on the foregoing as well as the previously submitted arguments, Applicant maintains that claims 2-6 are patentably distinguishable over the applied references, either alone or in combination.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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